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Polinger et al.

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(54) **THEMATIC DOLL HOUSE**

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(52) U.S. Cl. **446/478**

(58) Field of Search 446/75, 82, 476,
446/478, 482

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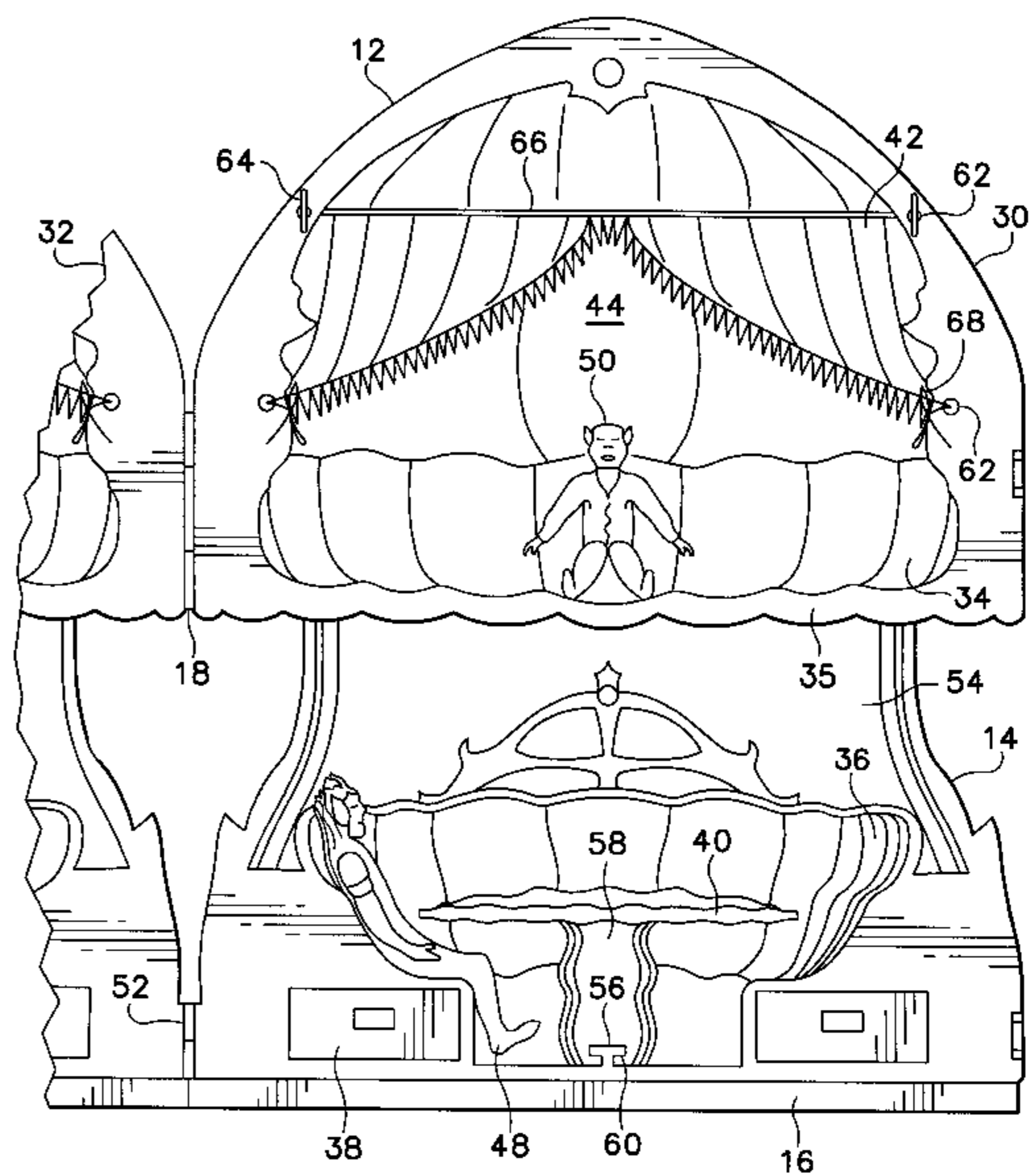
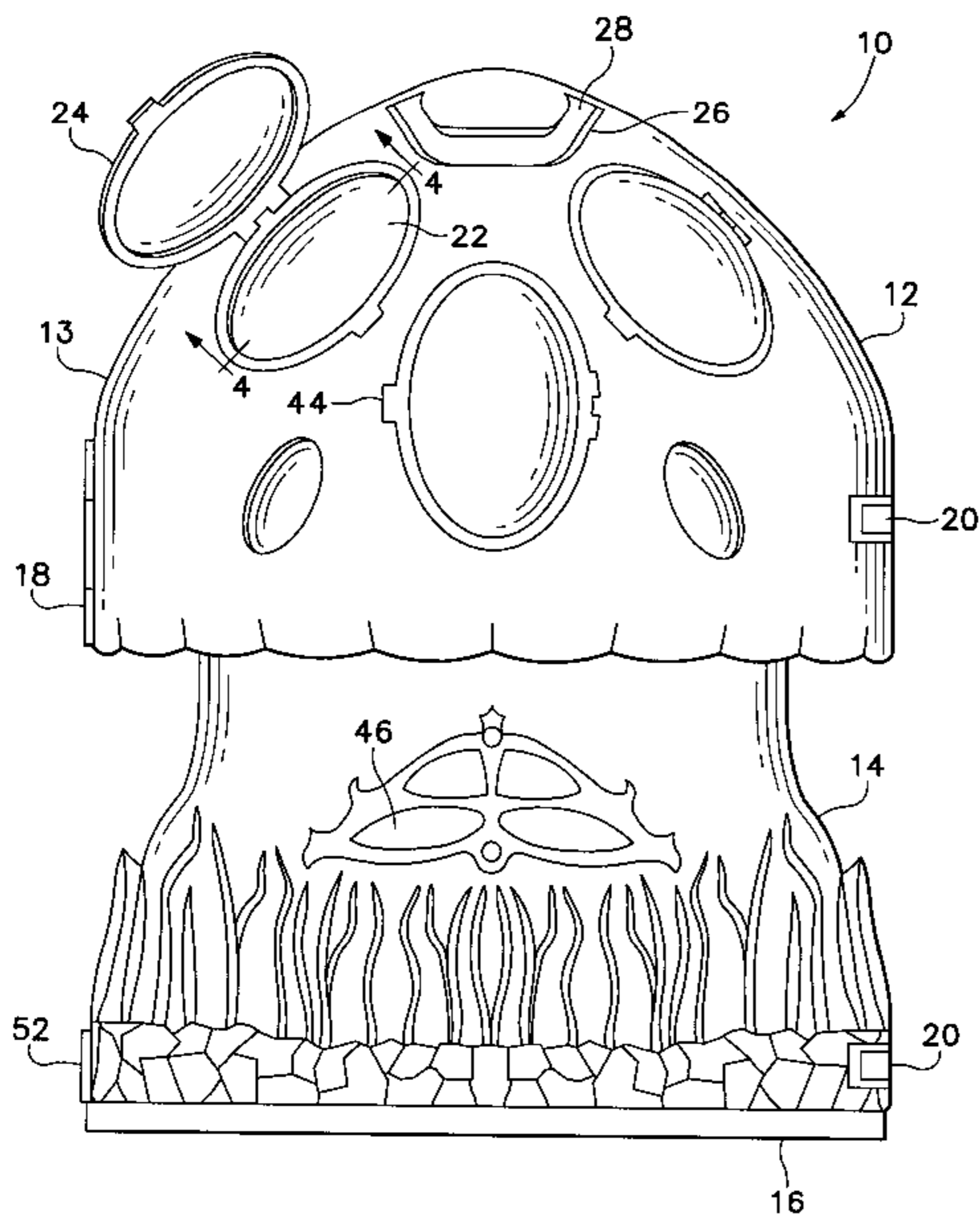
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An improved doll house is provided for storing and playing with dolls and accessories that is configured so as to be thematically integrated with the dolls and accessories. The doll house comprises a plurality of molded, hollowed-out compartments which are hinged together to provide an openable enclosure with the appearance of a mushroom having a head section and a stem section. Concave berths, having bubble-shaped doors, are provided in the head section for storage of dolls which resemble faeries. Upper and lower scalloped seating areas are provided on an interior surface of the compartments to accommodate the dolls. The compartments include windows with curtains to allow one to view the interior of the doll house when the compartments are closed.

23 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets



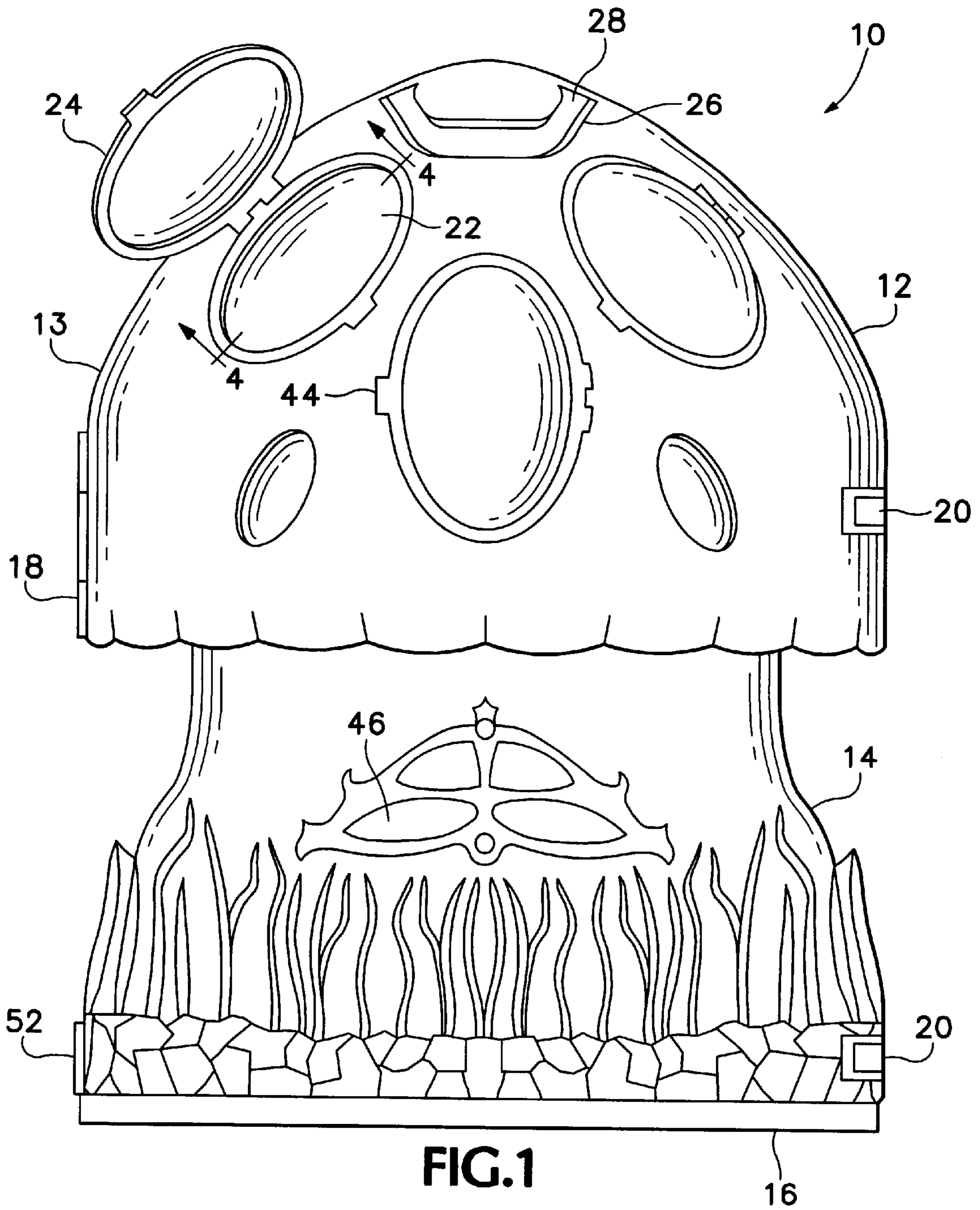


FIG.1

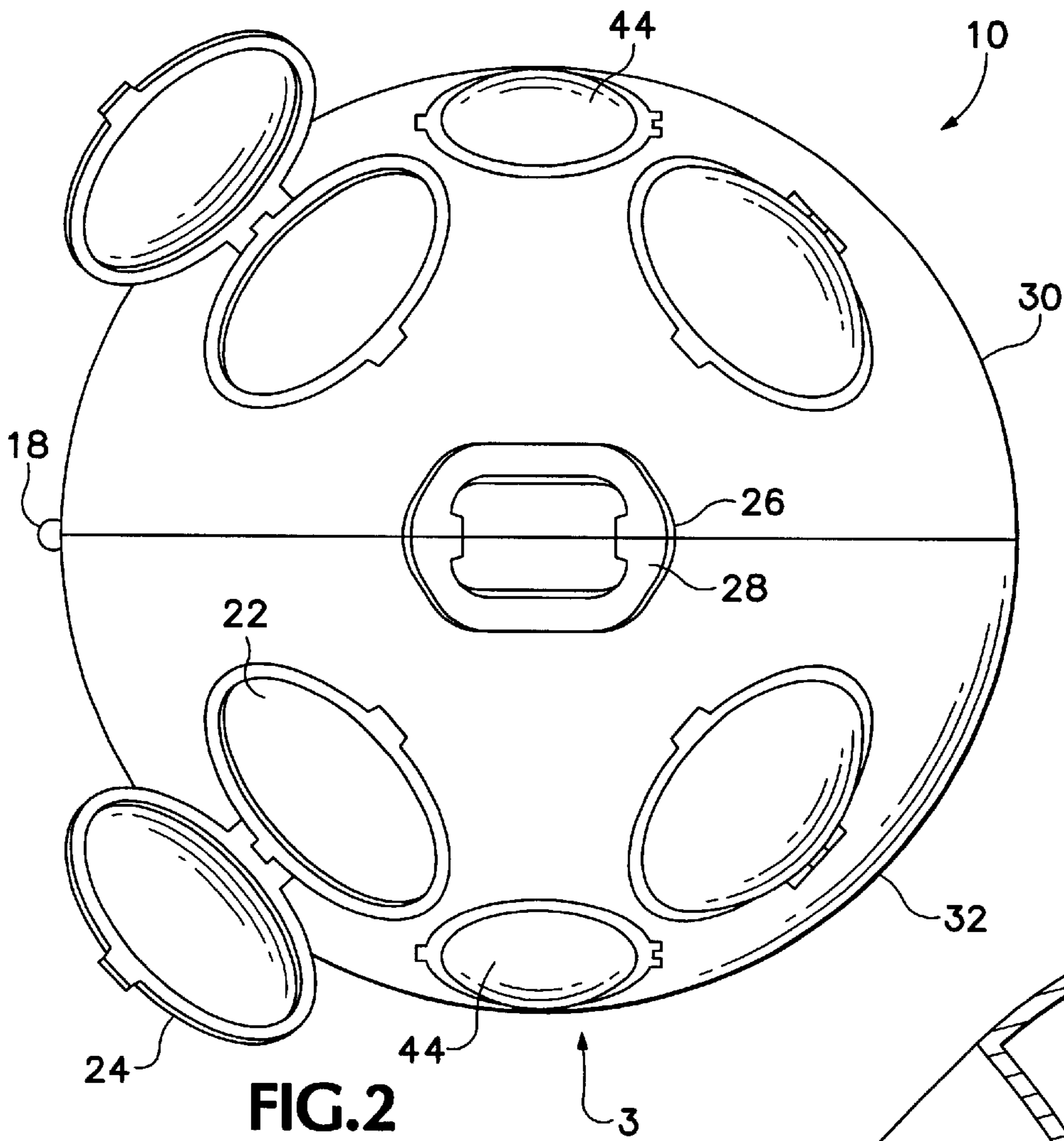


FIG. 2

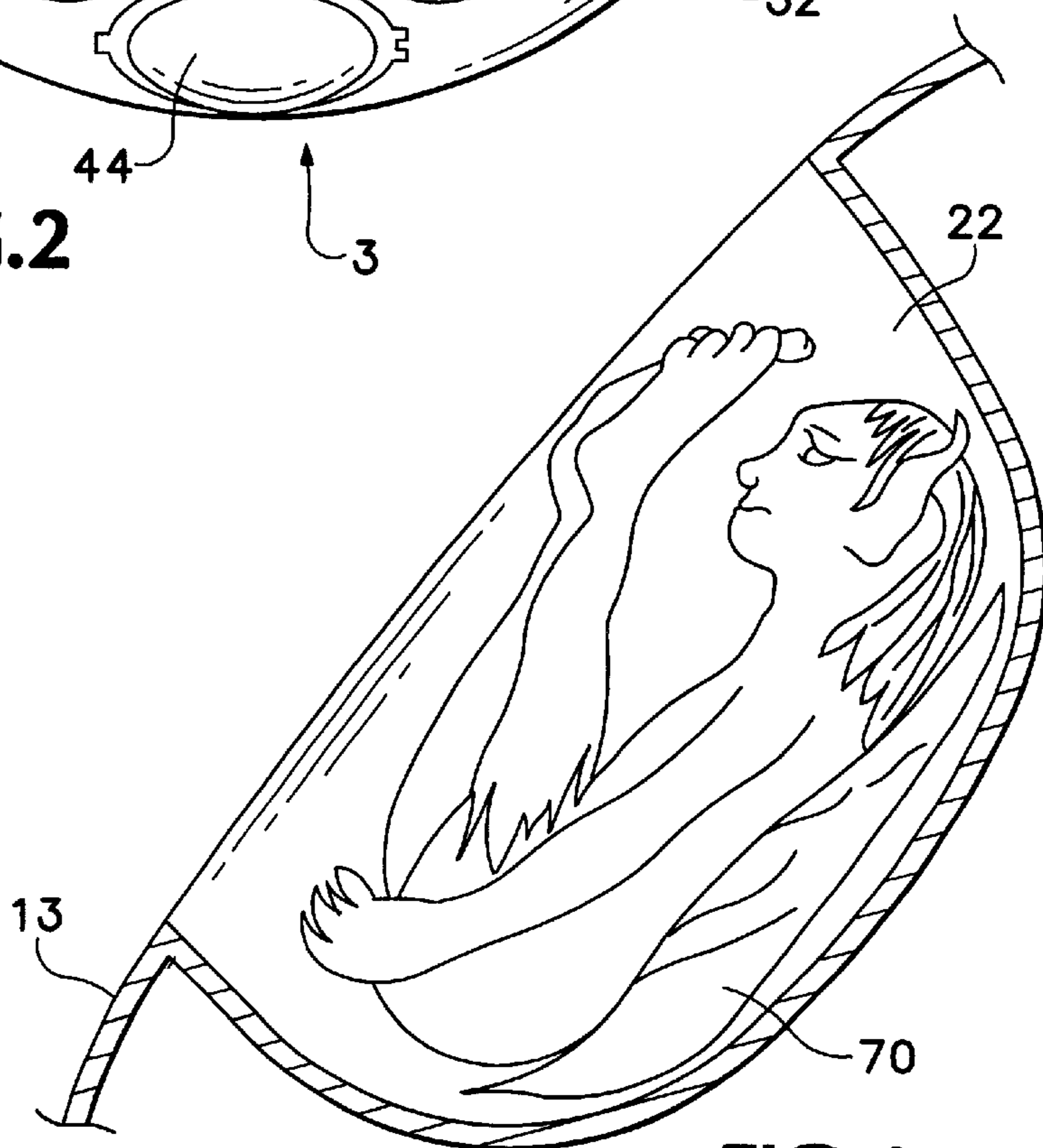


FIG. 4

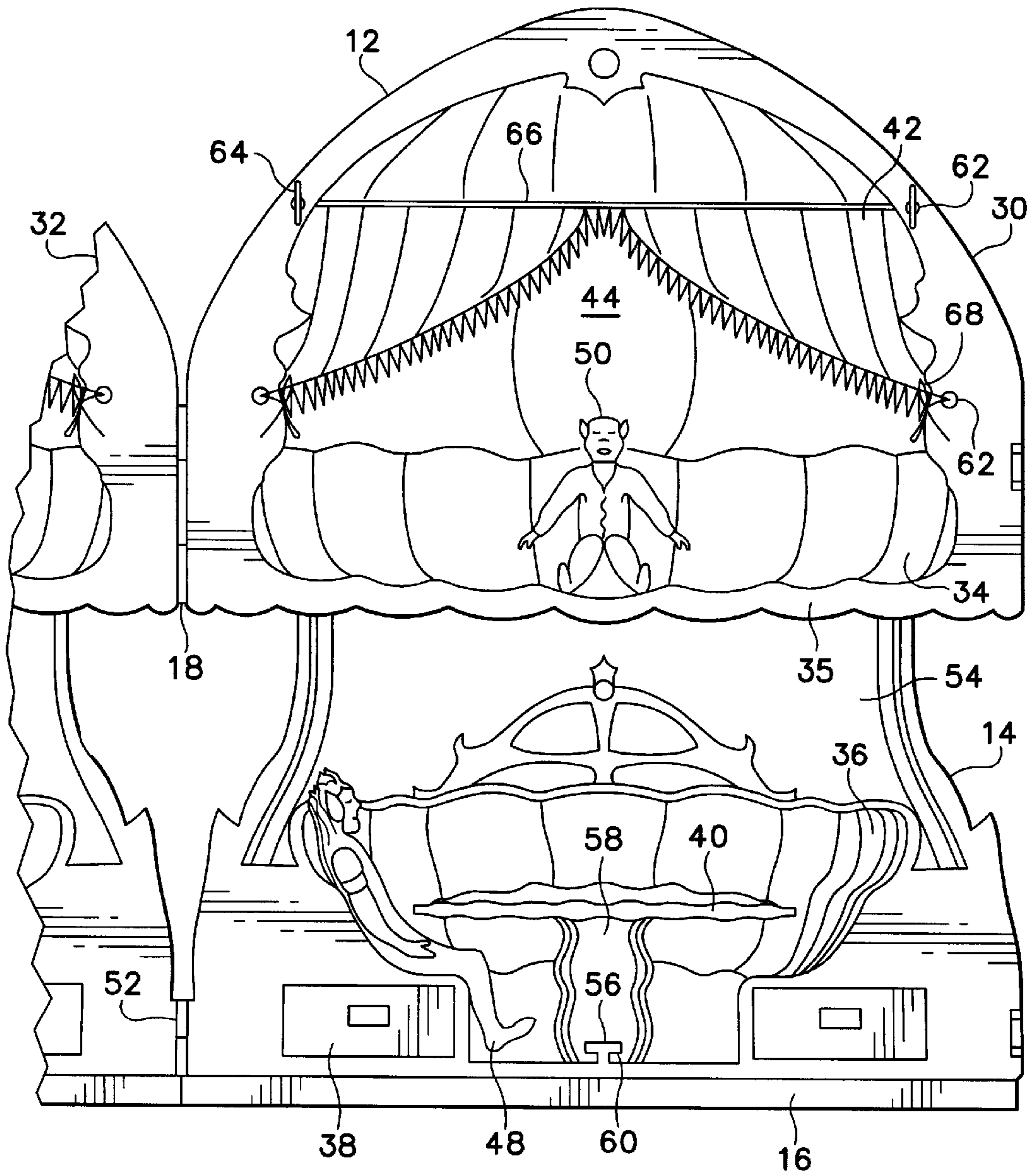


FIG.3

THEMATIC DOLL HOUSE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to toys, and more particularly to a toy doll house for housing, transporting and playing with figurines.

Toy playhouses for housing dolls and figurines, which provide space in which children can play with the dolls and figurines within the confines of the doll house are known. Various configurations have been selected for doll houses in the past, including hinged and multiple storied doll houses, having various levels of rooms, doorways, passageways, staircases, decks, etc. Some of these hinged doll houses have been collapsible with a handle thereon for transporting the doll house.

The themes or designs for doll houses have encompassed almost every imaginable overall appearance such as spaceships, vegetables, and medieval castles however, no doll house themes were integrally related to and implemented by storage and reposing structures for accommodating likewise thematic figurines in a manner in accordance with and befitting the overall theme of the doll house.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the present invention, an improved thematic doll house is provided for storing and playing with thematically integrated dolls and doll accessories.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide an improved doll house that constitutes a pair of mating, mushroom-shaped compartments which are hinged together to form a free standing compartmentalized enclosure, that when opened allows access to the interior surfaces of the compartments.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide an improved doll house in the shape of a mushroom with concave enclosed areas, molded into the head of the mushroom so as to house dolls that are visible and accessible through openable transparent bubble-like doors.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an improved mushroom-shaped doll house with internal drawers to allow storage of doll related accessories.

It is still a further object of the present invention to provide an improved mushroom-shaped doll house formed from two interior hollowed-out shell halves each having a scalloped seating arrangement formed in semi-circular fashion around the bottom of the mushroom head shaped section of the doll house such that a circular, scalloped seating arrangement for dolls is formed when the doll house halves are closed.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide an improved mushroom-shaped doll house formed from two interior hollowed-out shell halves each having a scalloped seating arrangement formed in semi-circular fashion around the base of the mushroom stem shaped section of the doll house such that a circular, scalloped seating arrangement for dolls is formed when the doll house halves are closed.

An intention of the present invention is to provide an improved mushroom-shaped doll house with drawstring-type curtains employed to cover sections of the doll house compartments when the doll house is an open position.

A further intention of the present invention is to provide an improved mushroom-shaped doll house with mystical looking clear plastic windows molded in the stem section of the mushroom-shaped doll house, to allow peering into the doll house when the doll house is in a closed position, or

from the backside of the doll house when the doll house is in an open position.

In accordance with still another aspect of the invention, a removable table is provided that is capable of being affixed to the base of one of the halves of the mushroom-shaped playhouse in a location central to a lower scalloped seating area.

Accordingly, it is another object of the invention to provide a thematic mushroom-shaped doll house for storing and allowing the reposing of dolls in a manner consistent with the theme of the housing structure including providing novel "sleeping arrangements" for Faerie-type dolls about the periphery and surface of the head of the mushroom-type doll house.

The subject matter of the present invention is particularly pointed out and distinctly claimed in the concluding portion of this specification. However, both the organization and method of operation, together with further advantages and objects thereof, may best be understood by reference to the following description taken in connection with accompanying drawings wherein like reference characters refer to like elements.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a side perspective view of a thematic doll house in a closed configuration according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a top view of a thematic doll house in a closed configuration according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a partial side perspective of the thematic doll house of FIG. 1 in an open configuration according to the present invention viewed in the direction indicated by arrow 3 of FIG. 2; and

FIG. 4 is an enlarged partial cross sectional view of a dewdrop-shaped storage compartment with a convex bubble-shaped door as taken substantially along the line 4—4 of FIG. 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The doll house according to the present invention comprises a free standing thematic enclosure formed in two mating sections from hollowed out compartments hinged together that, when closed, have the external appearance of a mushroom. The interior design incorporates seating and storage areas which are accessible through select openable translucent convex bubble-shaped doors on the exterior surface of the head section of the mushroom when closed. The interior is also accessible when the compartments are opened. Dewdrop-shaped concave storage enclosures are molded into the exterior surface of the head for the storage of dolls. The interior layout of the doll house incorporates seating areas, tables and storage drawers as well as removable curtains to conceal sections of the compartments. The doll house is thematically designed for the storage, presentation and manipulation of dolls sharing the same theme orientation, i.e., such as Faeries or the like.

Referring to FIG. 1, a side perspective view of a thematic doll house in a closed configuration, it can be seen that the doll house 10 is architecturally configured with a head section 12, a stem section 14 and a base 16 so that the external surface 13 resembles a mushroom. There are two mating portions in the illustrated embodiment. Each mating portion has an upper complementary hinge 18 and a lower complementary hinge 52 on one side and a latching mecha-

nism **20** located on an opposite side. Plural openable doors **24** are molded in spaced arrangement into head section **12** and are suitably shaped and translucent so as to allow viewing of concave storage compartments **22**. Translucent skylight doors **44** are provided on the face of the head section and open to allow direct access into the interior of head section **12**. Mystic-shaped windows **46** are placed in the stem region (one such window on each of the two mating sections) and enable viewing the interior of stem section **14**. A handle recess **26** is molded into doll house **10** at the apex of head section **12** to accept a handle portion **28**. Suitably two such handle portions are provided that function together to comprise a carrying handle when the doll house is in a closed position.

Referring to FIG. 2, a top view of the thematic doll house in a closed configuration, it can be seen that the first mating portion **30** and the second mating portion **32** are substantially similar halves of the assembled doll house **10**. The two halves may comprise, for example, mirror images.

Referring to FIG. 3, a partial side perspective of the thematic doll house of FIG. 1 in an open configuration according to the present invention, the view being taken in the direction indicated by arrow **3** of FIG. 2, it can be seen that first mating portion **30** and second mating portion **32** are hollowed out compartments with a first upper semicircular seating arrangement **34** situated on the internal surface of the head section **12** and a second lower semicircular seating arrangement **36** positioned on the internal surface of the stem section **14**. Dolls **48** and **50** are suitably configured like Faeries and movably reside within the confines of mating portion **30**. Drawers **38** are molded under second seating arrangement **36** (two such drawers being provided in each portion **30**, **32** in the preferred embodiment) and a table **40** is slideably affixed to base **16** by tab **56** which is substantially centered with respect to semicircular seating arrangement **36**. Adjustable curtains **42** traverse the width of mating portion **30**. The openable translucent skylight **44** is visible from mushroom head section **12** and mystic windows **46** are visible from within mushroom stem section **14**, there being a floor portion **35** that partitions the interior of head section **12** from the interior of stem section **14** when the doll house is in a closed configuration.

FIG. 4, an enlarged partial cross sectional view of a dewdrop-shaped storage compartment as taken substantially along the line 4—4 of FIG. 1, shows a Faerie doll **70** in a “resting” or storage position in a concave storage compartment **22**.

Referring to FIGS. 1–3 together, it can be seen that first mating portion **30** and second mating portion **32** are substantially mirror image configurations of each other attached by upper hinge **18** and lower hinge **52**. Each portion has an interior surface **54** that is a compartmentalized or hollowed out cavity and an exterior surface **13** preferably configured in the appearance of a mushroom. As noted above, numerous translucent convex bubble-shaped doors **24** adorn the exterior surface of head section **12** of the mushroom doll house and enclose concave storage compartments **22**. These bubble-shaped doors resemble dew drops on the head of the mushroom in which dolls such as Faerie dolls **70** can “sleep”, or otherwise reside. The doll house is constructed of a suitably moldable and resilient material such as rubber or a plastic polymer.

Upper hinge **18** and lower hinge **52** have their longitudinal axes vertically aligned so that when first portion **30** and second portion **32** are pivoted about this common longitudinal hinge axis to an “open” position, interior surfaces **54**

are exposed for presentation and play. When first portion **30** and second portion **32** are pivoted about the hinges to a “closed” or “mated” position, locking latch **20** is engaged, the exterior surfaces **54** form a mushroom configuration and the interior surfaces are accessible only through openable translucent skylight doors **44**. In this closed position interior surfaces **54** also remain viewable through translucent mystic-shaped windows **46**. Whether in the open or closed position, the doll house is a free standing structure resting upon the base **16** of both sections.

As noted above, the interior surfaces **54** are compartmentally divided into two circular scallop-shaped seating arrangements. First seating arrangement **34** is located in head section **12** and second seating arrangement **36** is located in stem section **14**. Both seating arrangements allow for the repose of play figurines such as Faerie dolls **48** and **50**. Second seating arrangement **36** has removable table accessory **40** which can be centrally positioned in relation to the circular configuration of the seating arrangement by the engagement of a T-shaped tab **56** affixed to base **16** into a mating slot **60** in table base **58**.

Operable drawers **38** are located between base **16** and second seating arrangement **36** for the storage of accessories such as eating paraphernalia, curtains, pillows and other play accessories. Such formed drawers may be located both proximally and distally from the hinged sides of the doll house, and in one or a variety of locations in each of the head or stem sections.

Operable curtains **42** may be extended across the cavity of the internal surfaces of either first mating portion **30** or second mating portion **32**. Orifices **62** are located at different positions vertically on either side of the mating portions so as to receive metal tabs **64** which are on the distal ends of curtain drawstring **66**. The tabs extend normally from the drawstring such that once inserted into the orifices, will hold the curtain in place. Drawstrings **68**, also utilizing orifices **62**, may be provided for adjustment of the curtain.

Handle recesses **26** are molded into the apex of head sections **12** to pivotally receive complimentary profiled handles **28**. When the doll house is in the closed position handles **28** may be pivoted from their recesses to matingly contact each other to form a transporting handle.

When playing with doll house **10**, it may be opened or closed. When the doll house is closed the dolls may be accessed in concave storage compartments **22** by opening bubble doors **24**. The dolls inside the doll house may also be accessed and viewed through skylight **44** or may be viewed through mystic windows **46**. When the doll house is open, dolls may be positioned at various places around seating arrangements **34** and **36**, table **40** may be affixed to base **16**, the accessories may be accessed from openable drawers **38** and curtains **42** may be manipulated.

Accordingly a thematic doll house is provided for presentation and play with Faeries, wherein the integration of elements such as a mushroom configuration, mystic-shaped windows, dew drop skylights and concave sleeping compartments establish and maintain the Faerie theme.

While a preferred embodiment of the present invention has been shown and described, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that many changes and modifications may be made without departing from the invention in its broader aspects. The appended claims are therefore intended to cover all such changes and modifications as fall within the true spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A doll house comprising;
 - a plurality of molded, hollowed-out, compartments which altogether define an openable enclosure with an external appearance of a mushroom and having a head section and a stem section, wherein each said compartment has an interior surface, an exterior surface and a base and is connectively hinged to adjacent compartments and has a locking apparatus, such that said plurality of compartments may be pivoted about a hinge axis to form a free-standing presentation doll house allowing access to said interior surfaces; and
 - a plurality of concave berths distributed about the exterior surface of a head section of at least one said hollowed-out compartment, said berths having openable, translucent, convex, bubble-shaped doors.
2. The doll house of claim 1, further comprising at least one openable drawer residing in at least one molded recess within at least one of said hollowed-out compartments, wherein said drawer is adapted for holding implements for playing.
3. The doll house of claim 2, further comprising a plurality of first scalloped seating areas positioned in partial circular fashion on an interior surface of said compartments at a bottom of said head section such that when said doll house is in a closed position said plurality of compartments mate and form a horizontally positioned circular scalloped first seating area wherein dolls may be positioned.
4. The doll house of claim 3, further comprising a plurality of second scalloped seating areas positioned in partial circular fashion on an interior surface of said compartment at said bases of the stem sections such that when said doll house is in a closed position the plurality of compartments mate to form a horizontally positioned circular scalloped second seating area wherein dolls may be positioned.
5. A doll house in accordance with claim 4 further comprising at least one drawstring curtain attached to said head section of at least one of said compartments at a location above said first seating area such that said curtain may shelter a portion of said interior surface of said hollowed-out compartment.
6. A doll house in accordance with claim 4 further comprising at least one skylight located in said head section of at least one compartment, said skylight allowing access to said interior surface of at least one said hollowed-out compartment.
7. A doll house in accordance with claim 6 wherein said skylight is openable.
8. The doll house of claim 1 further comprising at least one seating area molded into at least one interior surface of said hollowed-out, compartments.
9. A doll house in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a table removably anchored to at least one of said bases in at least one of said hollowed-out compartments.
10. The doll house of claim 9, wherein the number of plural compartments is two.
11. The doll house of claim 10 further comprising at least one openable drawer residing in at least one molded recess within at least one of said hollowed-out compartments wherein said recesses are located adjacent said first scalloped seating area.
12. A doll house in accordance with claim 1 further comprising;
 - at least one handle; and
 - at least one handle recess with a profile that corresponds to said handle and is located in said exterior surface of

said head section of at least one hollowed-out compartment, wherein said handle pivotally resides within said handle recess.

13. A doll house in accordance with claim 1 further comprising windows located in the said stem section of at least one said compartment.

14. A mushroom-shaped doll house comprising:

a pair of mating compartments having exterior surfaces and interior surfaces, an exterior surface of each said compartment being molded in the shape of a mushroom having a head section, a stem section and a base, and said compartments being hingedly connected to one another at a first side and having a locking latch at a second side, wherein said compartments are moveable to an open position allowing access to an interior portion of each compartment and closeable to form a mushroom-shaped enclosure and wherein said head section and stem section are separated by a floor substantially parallel to said base;

a plurality of concave enclosures molded into said exterior surface of said head section wherein each said enclosure has an openable door of a convex-shaped translucent material; and

at least one partial circular scalloped seating area molded within the interior portion of at least one compartment.

15. The doll house of claim 14 wherein said at least one partial circular scalloped seating area comprises a first partial circular scalloped seating area molded into said floor and at least one partial circular scalloped seating area comprises a second semi-circular scalloped seating area molded into said base.

16. The doll house of claim 15 further comprising:

a table with a pedestal having a recess defined therein; and a cleat affixed to said base wherein said cleat has a profile corresponding to said recess, wherein said cleat slidingly engages said recess in said pedestal so as to removably anchor said table to said base.

17. The doll house of claim 16 wherein said recess and said corresponding profile of said cleat are T-shaped.

18. The doll house of claim 17 further comprising a plurality of drawers residing adjacent the second seating area, said drawers being adapted for holding play implements.

19. The doll house of claim 14 further comprising a removable, operable curtain extending between the first side and second side of at least one compartment.

20. A doll house in accordance with claim 14 further comprising:

at least one handle; and

at least one handle recess with a profile that corresponds to said handle and is located in said exterior surface of said head section of at least one mating compartment, wherein said handle pivotally resides within said handle recess.

21. The doll house of claim 14 further comprising an openable skylight located in said head section for allowing access to said interior surface of at least one head section.

22. The doll house of claim 14 further comprising at least one window located in an exterior surface of at least one of said stem sections.

23. A mushroom shaped doll house comprising:

a pair of mating compartments having exterior surfaces and interior surfaces, an exterior surface of each said compartment being molded in the shape of a mushroom having a head section, a stem section and a base, and said compartments being hingedly connected to one

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another at a first side and having a locking latch at a second side, wherein said compartments are moveable to an open position allowing access to an interior portion of each compartment and closeable to form a mushroom-shaped enclosure; 5
a floor substantially parallel to said base that separates said head section and stem section;
a plurality of concave berths molded into said exterior surface of said head section wherein each said berth has an openable convex-shaped door made of a translucent material and is adapted for the repose of thematic dolls; 10
an openable skylight located in said head section for allowing access to a portion of said interior surface of at least one compartment; 15
at least one window located in an exterior surface of at least one of said stem sections;
a removable, operable curtain extending between the first side and second side of at least one compartment;
a table with a pedestal having a recess therein;

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a cleat affixed to said base wherein said cleat has a profile corresponding to said recess and slidingly engages said recess so as to removably anchor said table to said base;
a first partial circular scalloped seating area molded into said floor within the interior portion of at least one compartment;
a second partial circular scalloped seating area molded into said base within the interior portion of at least one compartment;
at least one handle adapted for transporting said doll house; and
at least one handle recess with a profile that corresponds to said handle and is located in said exterior surface of said head section of at least one mating compartment, wherein said handle pivotally resides within said handle recess.

* * * * *

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Certificate

Patent No. 6,283,819 B1

Patented: September 4, 2001

On petition requesting issuance of a certificate for correction of inventorship pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 256, it has been found that the above identified patent, through error and without deceptive intent, improperly sets forth the inventorship.

Accordingly, it is hereby certified that the correct inventorship of this patent is: Kimmie Polinger, Ashland, Oregon.

Signed and Sealed this Twenty-fifth Day of June 2002.

DERRIS H. BANKS
Supervisory Patent Examiner
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